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Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 14-18 June 2010

Letter dated 22 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

I have the honour to refer to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in New York from 14 to 16 June 2017. In this connection, I am forwarding the letter addressed by the Chairperson-designate, Ambassador Pablo Macedo, to all States Members of the Organization on his consultations concerning the Meeting.

I would be very grateful if that letter were published as a document of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as the Chair-designate of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be convened from 14 to 18 June 2010 in New York.

After holding extensive consultations during the past months in New York, Geneva, Kigali, Sydney and Lima, and attending several meetings and consultations with States, international and regional organizations, and representatives of the civil society and academia, I note with satisfaction that most of the actors involved are convinced of the need to produce concrete results, building upon the achievements reached during the Third Biennial Meeting, laying the foundation for a successful Review Conference in 2012.

I note with appreciation the willingness shown by States to discuss their concerns and, in compliance with operative paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 63/72, I have requested them to identify priority issues or topics of relevance to be addressed during the Fourth Biennial Meeting, in particular, the problems and opportunities arising from the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as any possible follow-up action to the Third Biennial Meeting.

I have received different proposals and I would like to address each and every one of them. However, owing to the limited time provided for the Meeting, I have made a strong effort to identify the issues which have received broad support, namely:

(a) Prevention and combat of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders;

(b) International cooperation and assistance;

(c) Institutionalization of monitoring mechanisms of the Programme of Action and preparations for the 2012 Review Conference and the 2011 Group of Experts' meeting.

The fourth topic has already been identified in operative paragraph 7 of resolution 64/50, in which the General Assembly recalled that the Fourth Biennial Meeting should consider the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

I have also put before delegations, for their consideration, the importance of acknowledging that prevention must play a fundamental role in all the actions we undertake against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and therefore I propose to include in the agenda the issue of the promotion of dialogue and a culture of peace.

In view of the importance of maintaining a constructive and inclusive dialogue and convinced that the Meeting must offer an opportunity to address other issues

related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, there will also be a specific session to debate other issues of interest to States, which could lay the basis for the Group of Experts' work in 2011, or that could identify possible topics for discussion during the 2012 Review Conference.

In order to organize the preparatory work for the Meeting, and considering the importance of including the highest number of proposals in the outcome document, I have had consultations to designate, as in previous occasions, friends of the President who will act as facilitators during the negotiations regarding the proposed topics, and I am now in the final phase of the selection process.

I wish to express my gratitude to the regional groups for nominating Bureau members with whom I have the intention of working very closely. I am pleased to inform you that the regional groups have designated the following countries to act as members of the Bureau: Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Guatemala, Japan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea and Switzerland. I would also like to encourage the African Group to nominate its candidates as soon as possible.

I would also like to highlight the importance of optimizing time to deepen the consideration of the agenda items promoting an interactive dialogue among delegations. As on previous occasions, there will be no general debate. I encourage States to submit their general positions in writing and to use the annual reporting mechanism to highlight the progress achieved at the national level. In this regard, the submission of the national reports to the Office for Disarmament Affairs at the earliest possible date is of particular importance.

With regard to the rules of procedure, I propose to use the same ones used in the previous meetings (A/CONF.192/L.1).

I am pleased to bring to your attention that there will be a specific segment for the participation of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors; they will be able to interact during the development of all the thematic sessions, being allowed to take the floor after States and guest intergovernmental organizations.

I encourage States to include representatives of civil society organizations in their delegations, and to inform the Secretariat of their composition as soon as possible, so that participants will be able to identify their counterparts before the meeting.

I will continue to hold consultations with States, regional and international organizations, and other interested actors. I will carry out open consultations at the United Nations in New York on 19 March, where I hope to present a draft of the programme of work. I will also attend the Regional Meeting in Indonesia on 31 March, and I will be back in New York in May to continue with this process. Meanwhile, I will ask the Friends of the Chair-designate to carry out consultations with delegations in Geneva and New York in order to develop elements that could be included in the final document.

(*Signed*) Pablo **Macedo**